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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4336

Postal Regulatory Commission
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January 11th, 2021

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Spanish Fort, AL Post Office, Docket Number A2021-1

Dear Commissioners:

I write to you in support of the appeal filed by the City of Spanish Fort in opposition to the United States Postal Service's decision to close the Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in Spanish Fort, Alabama. Given the irregularities regarding the process and the inadequacy of the resolution proposed, I request you intervene in USPS's decision to close this essential post office. I also urge the Commission to ensure the post office remains open until the completion of the appeal process.

Spanish Fort is one of the fastest growing communities in Alabama. Unfortunately, the citizens of Spanish Fort do not have a full-service post office and are served by a CPU. This CPU currently houses approximately 700 P.O. Boxes, which are vital for the many local businesses in Spanish Fort. Unfortunately, the contract for this CPU is expiring later this month.

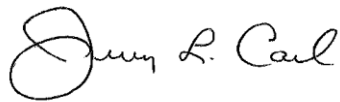
For over a year, local officials have been engaging with USPS to advocate for a full-service Spanish Fort Post Office to replace the CPU, and this is the only solution that truly meets the needs of the community. However, local officials were told a CPU was the only option for the community to maintain the current level of services. While many were unhappy with this proposal, local officials informed USPS the community was content with a replacement CPU as long as the 700 P.O. Boxes were maintained within Spanish Fort city limits. On multiple occasions, including a November 2nd phone call with my predecessor, officials were told maintaining the P.O. Box service was part of the ongoing RFP process.

Unfortunately, what local officials were told was not true. To the surprise and dismay of many, on the day the RFP closed, the city learned the proposal included no request the bidder provide P.O. Box services. For the first time, local officials were told the Postal Service had already decided that the P.O. Boxes would not remain in Spanish Fort and the P.O. Boxes were being transferred to the Daphne Post Office.

This is an unacceptable course of action. The elimination of 700 P.O. Boxes will hamper the growth of Spanish Fort businesses and the community at large. The next closest post office is located twenty minutes away in Daphne, Alabama. As one of Alabama's fastest growing cities, Spanish Fort deserves and requires a full-service post office.

This entire process has been irregular and the decision to close the post office in Spanish Fort must be reversed. Should you have any questions, please contact Matthew Bishop in my office at Matthew.Bishop@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry L. Carl". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" being more prominent than the last name "Carl".

Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress